

Using your the dialect maps and the information about Middle English dialects from your book, identify what part of English each of the following poetic excerpts came from. Hint: look, in particular, for forms of the feminine first person pronoun.

1.

Swa wynnit thair ane woundir gude hostillar
Without the toun intill a fair manar,
And Symon Lawrear wes his name.
Ane fair blyth wyf he had of ony ane,
Bot scho wes sumthing dynk and dengerous.
The silly freiris quhen thay come to the houss
With fair hailsing and bekking courteslye,
To thame scho answerit agane in hye.
Freir Robert sperit eftir the gudman,
And scho agane answerit thame thane:
“He went fra hame, God wait, on Weddinsday,
In the cuntré for to seik corne and hay,
And uthir thingis quhair of we haif neid.”

2.

Hit watz þe ladi, loflyest to beholde,
þat droȝ þe dor after hir ful dernly and styllle
And boȝed toward the bed, and þe burne schamed
And layde hym down lystyly and let as he slepte.
And ho stepped stilly and stel to his bedde,
Kest vp þe cortyn and creped withinne
And set hir ful softly on þe bedsyde
And lenged þere selly longe to loke quen he wakened.
þe lede lay lurked a ful longe quyle,
Compast in his conscience to quat þat cace myȝt
Meue oþer amount.

3.

This Absolon gan wype his mouth ful drie.
Derk was the nyght as pich, or as the cole,
And at the wyndow out she putte hir hole,
And Absolon, hym fil no bet ne wers,
But with his mouth he kiste hir naked ers
Ful savourly, er he were war of this.
Abak he stirte, and thoughte it was amys,
For wel he wiste a womman hath no berd.
He felte a thyng al rough and long yherd,
And seyde, “Fy! allas! what have I do?”
“Tehee!” quod she, and clapte the wyndow to,
And Absolon gooth forth a sory pas.